

22 JUL 1982

The Honorable Louis O. Giuffrida  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1725 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Giuffrida:

This responds to your letter of 29 June 1982, requesting an unclassified assessment on Soviet civil defense and requesting further information on a number of specialized Soviet civil defense-related subjects. I have asked Mr. [redacted] Director of Soviet Analysis, CIA, to make suitable arrangements with Mr. Crawford of your agency to provide the specialized information you requested. Issuance of a new unclassified assessment on Soviet civil defense is a more complex problem.

In 1978, my predecessor, Admiral Turner, was requested by Members of Congress to issue the unclassified CIA assessment on Soviet civil defense because of the public debate on the subject that had appeared in the media--much of it uninformed. At the time, there were differing views within intelligence and the Administration about whether the DCI should deviate from longstanding policy that public releases on the Soviet threat should be made by the Departments of State or Defense, the White House Staff or Congressional Committee rather than the DCI. Admiral Turner decided to release the unclassified assessment after coordination with the Secretaries of State and Defense and the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs.

Basically, I am opposed to issuance by the DCI or CIA of unclassified intelligence assessments. I can envision circumstances in which such releases would be proper, but I do not believe we should issue a new CIA assessment on Soviet civil defense. Substantively, the major findings of the 1978 unclassified study are consistent with those in our latest national intelligence on the subject, an IIM published in 1981, but I can understand why a fresh assessment would be useful to your agency. As an alternative, I suggest that the Interagency Intelligence Working Group on Soviet Civil Defense, on which you have a representative, update the 1978 unclassified assessment and that the new assessment be issued as a FEMA publication.

I appreciate the demands on your agency, and you may be assured of our continued cooperation in meeting your needs for intelligence.

Sincerely,

/s/

William J. Casey